

# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

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The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus

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## Community mourns loss of 'first dispatcher'

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The City of Romulus lost a beloved member of the community this week.

Freda Crova died at the age of 86 on Sunday. She embedded herself in the community as a cornerstone of the Romulus Fire Department.

She was considered the department's first dispatcher, according to her son and current Romulus City Councilman William Crova.

Crova recalled when his father, Joseph Crova, had to man the phones 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the department when he was fire chief from 1941-1972.

"There was phone at the

department and when he wasn't there was a phone at the house that would ring," he said. "And when he wasn't at either, it was my mother that took on the responsibility."

She did so for 31 years. When Mr. Crova retired in 1972, so did she. The two of them saw the volunteer fire department grow from 12 people to 48 full-time firefighters and four stations.

After Mrs. Crova left the position, the department had to hire five dispatchers to do what she was doing for free, Crova said.

And when she wasn't dispatching fire trucks she was helping with the family business, at the time called Crova Sales & Services, located on Goddard Road.

"She was a very loving person," Crova said. "She always put other peoples' needs before hers."

She was also a president of the Altar Society at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in the early 1950s and was also active on the Church Festival Committee.

After retirement for the fire department Mr. And Mrs. Crova moved to Florida where they lived for 20 years. After Mr. Crova died almost 11 years ago, Mrs. Crova moved back to Romulus to be near her family. The couple was married for 51 years.

Crova's fellow council members expressed their condolences at the City of Romulus council meeting Monday night.

"I knew Freda about 35 years

or so, since 1968 when we first moved out here," said Councilman William Wadsworth. She was a kind and sweet, gentle lady. She will be missed."

Mrs. Crova left behind two sons, William and John; brother, George Zakolski; four grandchildren, Joseph, James, Mary and Karen; and three great-grandchildren with another expected soon.

Her husband, five brothers, one sister and parents John and Mary (Robalkiewicz) Zakolski preceded her in death.

Services will take place today at 10:30 a.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Romulus. She will then be buried at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.



Freda Crova

The family asks that all memorials be sent to: Capuchin Mission Association, 1820 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit, MI 48207-3485.

## Belleville plans for centennial celebration

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

In 1905, the City of Belleville was not the same thriving and yet small-town community that it is today.

The unpaved streets of Belleville were tucked away in the comfort of Van Buren Township, where many residents hoped it would stay. Belleville was only a village, but remained the social and commercial center of the township.

"At the time, the separation was something that was unpopular with the residents," said Diane Wilson, director at the Belleville Area Museum. "They voted to remain a part of the township, but were later persuaded by two local businessmen to pass a bill to cause the separation. From that point on, Belleville had its own elected officials."

It was 100 years ago that legislatures granted Belleville village status, marking a significant day in area history. This year marks that day and will be celebrated in the city as the Belleville Centennial Year Anniversary.

"Nineteen hundred and five marked the time when



This year marks the Belleville Centennial Year Anniversary, in which the legislatures granted Belleville village status, marking a significant day in area history. The Belleville Area Museum (above) plans to commemorate the historical event through the sale of the 2005 centennial calendar, a new history booklet and exhibits at the museum.

businesses, clubs and organizations got together to form a true sense of community. The idea is to include both Van Buren and Sumpter Township in the centennial celebration to show how we've all grown up together," said Mayor Tom Fielder.

When comparing the old days to today, Fielder said that there was no development of any kind: no expressways, no restaurants and no traffic.

"When you went out of Belleville you were considered to be in farm country," he said. "Back then if you needed services you had to drive out of

town. We all used to joke that after the Friday night football games there was nowhere to eat in Belleville. Now, there is no significant difference when you cross the city lines. That's progress."

And while the celebration plans are still "in the works," the city intends to incorporate the anniversary into the annual festivals, holiday activities, park projects and other historical events. Plans thus far include: an extended Harvest Festival with dinner, dancing and fireworks, a time capsule

See **Century**, page 3

## City council finalizes plan for military leave benefits

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Romulus City Council members approved an amendment concerning military leave at the regular meeting Monday night.

The amendment would comply with the United Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) and protect the rights of employees who must leave their jobs to perform uniformed military service, according to Romulus Personnel Director Sandra Rivers.

"It's to ensure that the families of our city employees that are in Iraq continue to receive benefits," she said.

Right now there are two Romulus police officers serving in the Middle East. Terry Cox, a 17-year veteran of the force and Rick Landry are both Michigan Reservists sent to Iraq. There are several other City of Romulus employees who are also in the reserves and National Guard, she said.

Cox left for the war in December of 2003 and Landry more recently, but both officers have families that rely on the benefits they receive from the city.

After Cox embarked for his tour of duty, Mayor Alan Lambert brought the policy to the attention of city council members in January 2004. A committee was later formed to write the Military Leave Policy and propose it to the members of city council.

The members unanimously

agreed to the amendment in an executive session, however, the policy change was never brought to the table and ratified at a regular meeting, according to Rivers.

"I brought it to the council's attention," Lambert said, "but it was never brought back."

The city has been operating under the impression that the policy had been through the proper channels. The families of Cox and Landry continued to receive medical benefits.

"The benefits were never interrupted," Lambert said.

Lambert has known Cox for several years. They went to high school together and worked at General Motors and the Romulus Police Department together.

Rivers, who helped finalize the program, was hired by the city on Dec. 6, 2004.

"I had heard that this was already done but when I investigated it I realized it wasn't," she said. "We've been complying with USERRA but it was never approved."

She said there are no repercussions in the matter because they have been complying with the law and benefits to the families never stopped.

"We were doing everything we were supposed to, it was without policy," she said.

That's why there was a need for an emergency approval of the amendment at the meeting, she added. And because Cox left in December 2003, it was approved to be retroactive, starting Dec. 1, 2003.



# Van Buren joins weather study of Rouge River area

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Officials in Van Buren Township said they hope participation in the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration project will help them determine where problems could arise in wet-weather conditions.

The project is a comprehensive watershed-wide program that addresses wet weather pollution problems ranging from the control of combined sewer overflows to storm water runoff in the Rouge River. The township was recently awarded a \$60,000 grant to fund the study.

Although the township has no combined sewers and does not experience sanitary sewer overflow during heavy rainfalls, the portion of the system in the Rouge Valley District does have high flows during wet weather.

The program will focus on those sewers to identify locations that have excessive infiltration and inflow, according to Patti Duha, water and sewer director for the township.

"We are installing flow monitors to identify where wet weather flow is coming from and if it can be removed," she said. "Obviously, we don't want to store it, but we want to find out if we can cost effectively remove it from the system."

**"**  
*We are installing flow monitors to identify where wet weather flow is coming from and if it can be removed.*  
**Patti Duha**

About 12 square miles of Van Buren Township is included in the Lower Rouge River Sub-watershed. The program will install sewer flow meters in 14 locations throughout the township to record average dry weather flow rates and wet weather flow rates that correspond to rainfall events.

Using the information, officials will then be able to identify, eliminate or control sources that contribute to the excessive inflow within those identified areas. The program will help the township reduce the wet weather component of their flows, therefore reducing the potential for flows above capacity, which could result in sanitary sewer overflow occurrence, according to Duha.

"Once we get the flow data calculations, we can determine what you expect versus what you're actually getting," she said. "So this is the first stage of the study. If the volumes seem higher in a particular area, then

we will go in and do a second study to determine what is really putting that water in the system."

The grant will provide 40 percent of the \$150,100 of the project cost. The township water and sewer department will match \$90,000 through a tax levy.

Duha said the flow meters will be installed in late winter so the project can begin in the early spring.

OUR DEADLINE IS JAN. 14



## Parents

*It's never too late to think about your child's future...*

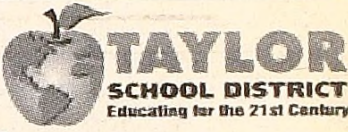
Here's what we can offer *your* child:

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| Hands-on math & science           | State-competitive bands, choir   |
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Now through Jan. 14, the **Taylor School District** is accepting applications for enrollment from students throughout Wayne County...

To help prepare your child for a world of possibilities, call:

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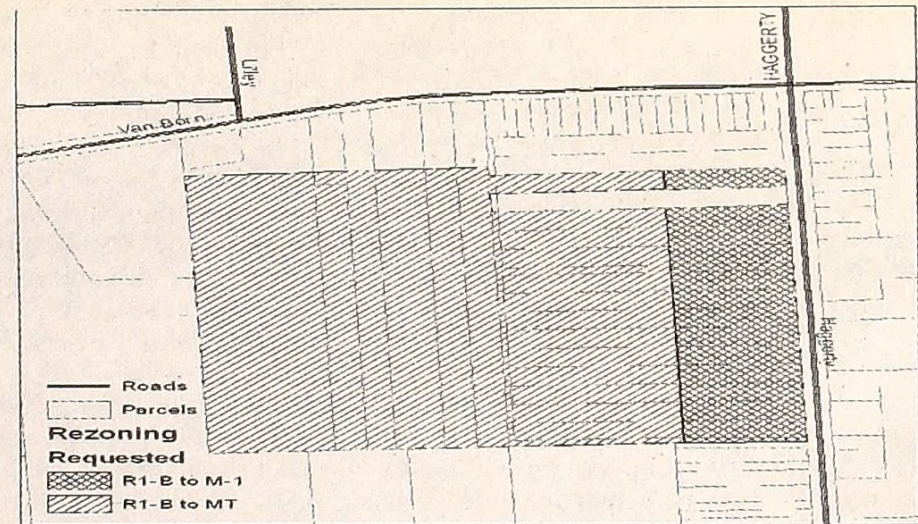


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**Parents:** Don't forget to ask about our All-Day Kindergarten and Before- and After-School Latchkey programs  
(available in many of our elementary schools)

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday January 12, 2005 at 7:30 p.m., to consider a zoning change on the following described property:



A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel numbers:

|                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| V125-83-008-99-0004-000 | V125-83-005-99-0005-000 | V125-83-005-99-0010-000 |
| V125-83-005-99-0006-000 | V125-83-005-99-0007-000 | V125-83-005-99-0009-000 |

A portion of the property listed above is being requested to be re-zoned M-T (Industrial Transportation) from R-1B (Single Family Residential).

|                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| V125-83-005-01-0021-300 | V125-83-005-01-0023-000 | V125-83-005-01-0024-000 |
| V125-83-005-01-0025-000 | V125-83-005-01-0026-000 | V125-83-005-01-0027-000 |
| V125-83-005-01-0028-000 | V125-83-005-01-0029-000 | V125-83-005-01-0030-000 |
| V125-83-005-01-0031-000 | V125-83-005-01-0032-000 | V125-83-005-01-0033-000 |
| V125-83-005-01-0034-000 |                         |                         |

A portion of all property listed above on the west side of Haggerty Road to be re-zoned M-1 (Light Industrial) from R-1B (Single Family Residential) and the remaining portions of above listed properties to be rezoned M-T (Industrial Transportation) from R-1B (Single Family Residential).

This property is located on Van Born Road, between Haggerty and Morton Taylor Roads.

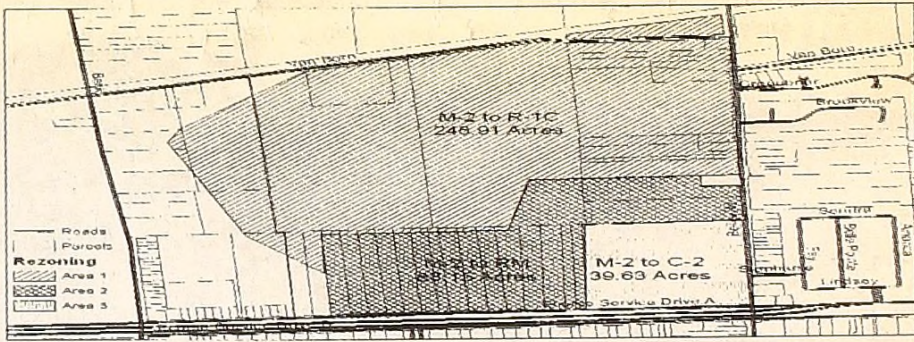
Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: January 6, 2005

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A request to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6/2/92, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel numbers and descriptions as follows:

Requesting to amend the Zoning Map of Zoning Ordinance by re-zoning parcels as follows:

**Area 1**

Parcels 83-016-99-0001-000, 83-016-99-0002-000, 83-016-99-0003-001, 83-016-99-0003-002, 83-016-99-0004-000, 83-016-99-0006-000, 83-013-99-0003-000, 83-013-99-0004-000, 83-013-99-0005-000, 83-013-99-0006-000, 83-013-99-0007-000, 83-013-99-0008-000, 83-013-99-0009-000, 83-013-99-0010-000, 83-014-99-0011-000, and the most northerly 50 ft of parcels 83-015-02-0003-000, 83-015-02-0004-000, 83-015-02-0005-000, 83-015-02-0006-000, 83-015-02-0007-000, 83-015-02-0008-000, 83-015-02-0010-000, 83-015-02-0011-000, 83-015-02-0012-000, and the northwest corner of parcel 83-015-02-0013-000, and the most northerly 500 feet of parcel 83-015-02-0001-000, and the most northerly 600 feet of parcel 83-015-02-0002-000, and the most easterly 340 feet of parcel 83-015-99-0001-000, and the most easterly 280 feet of parcel 83-015-99-0002-000, and the most easterly 125 feet of parcel 83-015-99-0003-000, and the northeastern corner of parcel 83-015-99-0004-000, and the northeastern corner of parcel 83-015-99-0009-000, and the southeastern corner of parcel 83-014-99-0015-000, and the most easterly 340 feet of parcel 83-014-99-0017-000, and parcel 83-013-99-0012-000 excluding the most southeasterly rectangular portion, and parcel 83-014-99-0013-000 excluding the northerly 100 feet and the southerly 940 feet, and parcel 83-014-99-0016-000 excluding the northerly 300 foot corner and southwesterly 300 foot corner, and parcel 83-014-99-0012-000 excluding the southwesterly 300 foot corner and northwesterly 275 foot corner, from M-2 (General Industrial) to R-1C (Single Family Residential)

**Area 2**

Parcels 83-016-99-0010-000, 83-016-99-0011-000, 83-016-99-0012-000, 83-016-99-0013-000, 83-016-99-0008-000 and parcels 83-015-02-0003-000, 83-015-02-0004-000, 83-015-02-0005-000, 83-015-02-0006-000, 83-015-02-0007-000, 83-015-02-0008-000, 83-015-02-0010-000, 83-015-02-0011-000, 83-015-02-0012-000 excluding the most northerly 50 feet of each, and parcel 83-015-02-0013-000 excluding the northwest corner, and the most westerly 50 feet of parcel 83-016-99-0014-000 and parcel 83-016-99-0009-000 excluding the most southerly 60 feet, and a southeasterly rectangular portion (640 ft x 710 ft.) of parcel 83-013-99-0012-000 from M-2 (General Industrial) to RM (Multiple Family Residential)

**Area 3**

Parcels 83-016-99-0015-000, 83-016-99-0016-000, 83-016-99-0017-000, 83-016-99-0018-000, 83-016-99-0019-000, 83-016-99-0020-000, 83-016-99-0021-000 and the most southerly 60 feet of parcel 83-016-99-0009-000 and the most easterly 33 feet of parcel 83-016-99-0014-000 from M-2 (General Industrial) to C-2 (Extensive Highway Business).

This property is located on the west side of Belleville Road between Michigan Avenue and Ecorse Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: January 6, 2005



# Businessman helps bring Christmas to 51 children

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

During the holiday season, when Toys for Tots and the Goodfellows get most of the attention with their Christmas-time fundraising endeavors, the little guys sometimes go unnoticed.

But the biggest little guy of them all helped 51 underprivileged children in Romulus receive toys for Christmas. And it wasn't Santa Claus.

Local wrestling icon Big Dave Martin, who owns and operates Prime Time Wrestling and is general manager at the Landing Strip in Romulus, raised thousands of dollars for a party for children who normally get the short end of the candy cane during the holidays.

The party took place at the Romulus Senior Center the

week before Christmas with a star-studded line-up. Martin used his connections as a pro wrestler and had other professional athletes visit during the party. Scott DaMore from Team Canada on Fox Sports Network's T&A Wrestling was on hand for the two-hour event along with the Detroit Lions' tackle Victor Rogers and fullback Stephen Trejo.

The biggest star of all was Santa Claus, though, who helped pass out the toys.

"I'm from Romulus and the Lord has been very good to me. I just wanted give back," Martin said. "It makes me feel good."

Martin said he went to the Romulus Recreation Center and obtained a list of underprivileged children and, after enough funds were secured and the stars lined up, he went on a shopping spree with hopes to offer something every kid deserves - presents for Christmas.

"I always had toys under the tree," he said. "My parents were always good to me and I don't think that any kid should go without a toy for Christmas."

Among the gifts given to the children were front-row tickets for Martin's Prime Time Wrestling show, scheduled for Feb. 27 at the Diamondback bar in Van Buren Township.

Employees of the Landing Strip were also very generous, according to Martin. One waitress donated a hundred dollars and owner Tom Nappo made a "sizable donation," he said.

The event, in its second year, went off with out a hitch, according to Martin and he plans to continue the event next year.

"It will continue," he said. "As long as I'm in the area, it'll keep going."



Nurse Practitioner Velda Coleman and business manager Jennifer Dunnett use this new examination room often at the new Teen Health Center inside Inkster High School.

## Teen clinic finds more space at school

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

The Inkster Teen Health Center has moved into Inkster High School following a year of planning and negotiations.

Formerly located in the shuttered Blanchette Middle School on Middlebelt Road, the clinic is situated in three classrooms at the school. Program Director Val Timko said the new facility would be more convenient for teenagers, and offers several new services.

"We have a therapist for people to talk to in here that we didn't have over at the other location," she said. "I think it's going to be better for the kids, because they don't have to cross Middlebelt Road to get there."

"The Blanchette facility has been closed (as a school) for a while; we've been in what is an essentially a vacant facility for a while. This way, kids are going to an inhabited facility," she said.

Operated by Starfish Family Services, the clinic is open to all Wayne County residents regardless of their ability to pay. People who need to apply for Medicaid can also apply at the clinic, said Sheree Askew, the program director for Starfish Family Services.

"Since we reopened, our clientele has tripled to about 100 people," said Timko. "In this community, it's important that a

*"We have a therapist for people to talk to in here that we didn't have over at the other location. I think it's going to be better for the kids, because they don't have to cross Middlebelt Road to get there."*

clinic like this exists because many of the people we treat may not have the resources to go to a primary care physician. Because we're a clinic, there are some things we can't do, but we can treat a variety of illnesses right here."

Jennifer Dunnett, the medical assistant at the center, said the clinic treats about 10 patients a day.

"We see a variety of people, and it gets busier around sports physical time," she said. "Sometimes, the people come from far away."

Private insurance and Medicaid is accepted at the Teen Health Center, but no one is turned away because of an inability to pay, Timko said.

"We ask that patients that cannot pay give us a small donation," she said.

Though services are targeted at 10- to 21-year-olds, several services are provided to younger and older persons, including school physicals, immunizations, pregnancy and pre-natal care, pap smears and pelvic exams,

smoking cessation services, and HIV/AIDS testing and counseling. Preventive services and counseling, such as substance abuse and general health organization, are also available.

Timko said the clinic runs on a skeleton crew. A full-time nurse practitioner, a full-time medical assistant/business manager, and a part-time program director work at the center.

The clinic is funded by the state, but is asking for donations to keep providing health care to people who cannot pay. Aside from donations of cash, medical supplies, and office supplies and equipment, the clinic is looking for a nurse to volunteer and someone with clerical skills to volunteer, Timko said.

"There's a lot of paperwork that needs to be done, and if anyone can help us with that, it would be great."

The clinic is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the clinic, call (734) 729-3650.

## 2 to stand trial in death of gun store owner, arson

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

The 17-year-old accused of being the mastermind behind the gun shop arson that claimed the life of an Inkster businessman will face trial for first-degree murder, felony murder and arson charges along with a 22-year-old man accused of being his accomplice.

Anthony Fields, 17, and David McKinney, 22, were bound over for trial last Wednesday by Judge Sylvia A. James of the 22nd District Court in Inkster. Felony firearms charges, which would have added a two-year extension to their sentences if they are convicted, were dropped.

The men will face formal arraignment at Wayne County Circuit Court within the next few weeks. They are currently being held without bond at the Wayne County Jail.

During the hearing, a 14-year-old boy who was allegedly involved in the plot to rob and set Alexander's Gun Shop on Michigan Avenue ablaze took the stand and implicated Fields and McKinney. The plan to rob the store materialized a few weeks before the Aug. 3 fire, the boy said. Fifty-four-year-old Clyde Alexander, the owner of the gun shop for about 20 years and a member of the city Downtown Development Authority (DDA), was found bound and beaten inside the store after the fire was extinguished. An autopsy later

revealed he died of smoke inhalation.

The boy pleaded to second-degree murder charges in juvenile court in Detroit and was sentenced as a juvenile. He was initially charged with first-degree murder, felony murder and arson. He will serve the next seven years in a juvenile detention facility.

Police are still pursuing charges against three other men in the case.

"Two of the men we're looking at are in custody on unrelated charges, and the other one is still at large," said Inkster Police Det. Lt. Kevin Smith. "We're actively pursuing his whereabouts."

McKinney, Fields and the 14-year-old boy were arrested on the charges after a four-month joint investigation by the Inkster Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The investigation into the whereabouts of about 40 guns that were stolen is still ongoing. So far, two guns stolen from the store have surfaced.

Alexander was a recognizable face in the community. In addition to his involvement with the DDA, he volunteered in sports organizations and mentoring programs, family members said.

Larry Polk of the law firm of Diallo, Wilder & Polk in Detroit, is representing Fields. Messages left for Polk were not returned Tuesday.

Family members of Clyde Alexander were unreachable for comment Tuesday.

## Century

FROM PAGE 1

dedication at Doane's Landing Park, a dedication ceremony for the 2005 Centennial Quilt, incorporation in the holiday parade and other activities through the Central Business Community, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Van Buren Public School District.

Both the Belleville Area Museum and the Historical Society also have plans to commemorate the historical event through the sale of the 2005 centennial calendar, a new history booklet and exhibits at the museum.

"We want to focus on things that the township and city share such as the schools, the post office, the museum, the library and Belleville Lake," said Wilson. "All things that we hold in common."

Wilson said that early civic groups and organizations like the Masons, the Oddfellows and the Macabees will be featured, along with the original minutes from the Belleville Park and Playground Association who created Victory Park.

The city will also be ringing in the New Year with a new city seal as part of the 2005 centennial celebration. The seal will feature 2005 printed on the logo and a softer type style.



# OPINION

## A hearty welcome

It's not often that we could find a reason to welcome a new fast food restaurant into the community, but every New Year brings new and unforeseen circumstances.

So here we go: another Tim Horton's is coming to Canton Township. Thank goodness.

Now, some might say that Canton already has enough fast food restaurants. There are, in fact, already two Tim Horton's in the township — one at the corner of Haggerty and Ford roads and one in front of the Meijer Thrifty Acres a few miles west on Ford Road.

There is, however, one too many run down hotels in the relatively upscale community, too, and this Tim Horton's will replace one of the ugliest: the DeSwan Motel. The archaic windmill that has graced the corner of Michigan Avenue and Beck Road, in front of the dilapidated motel, is hardly the type of landmark officials want at one of the main intersections in the community.

OK, so fast food restaurants aren't typically known for their striking architecture or the way they blend into the community. The destruction of the old motel and its replacement with the Canadian food chain may not make anyone's top 10 list, may not spur anyone to move into the community.

But it will certainly dress up an ugly corner and supply one more — albeit small — step in the right direction. Tim Horton's is coming to Canton. Thank you.

## What price dignity?

It must be a difficult thing to work in a high-profile public occupation.

The difficulty probably does not manifest itself in the daily routine, although these jobs, like any others probably have some days that are a lot more hectic than others.

No, the difficulty arises from a simple fact: these positions are virtually unique in that every now and then their very livelihood is discussed out in the open, often videotaped and telecast for people to watch later. It's a distinction city or township administrators share with other legislators and perhaps professional athletes.

What a strange thing it must be to sit behind a dais as people discuss how much they think you should be paid.

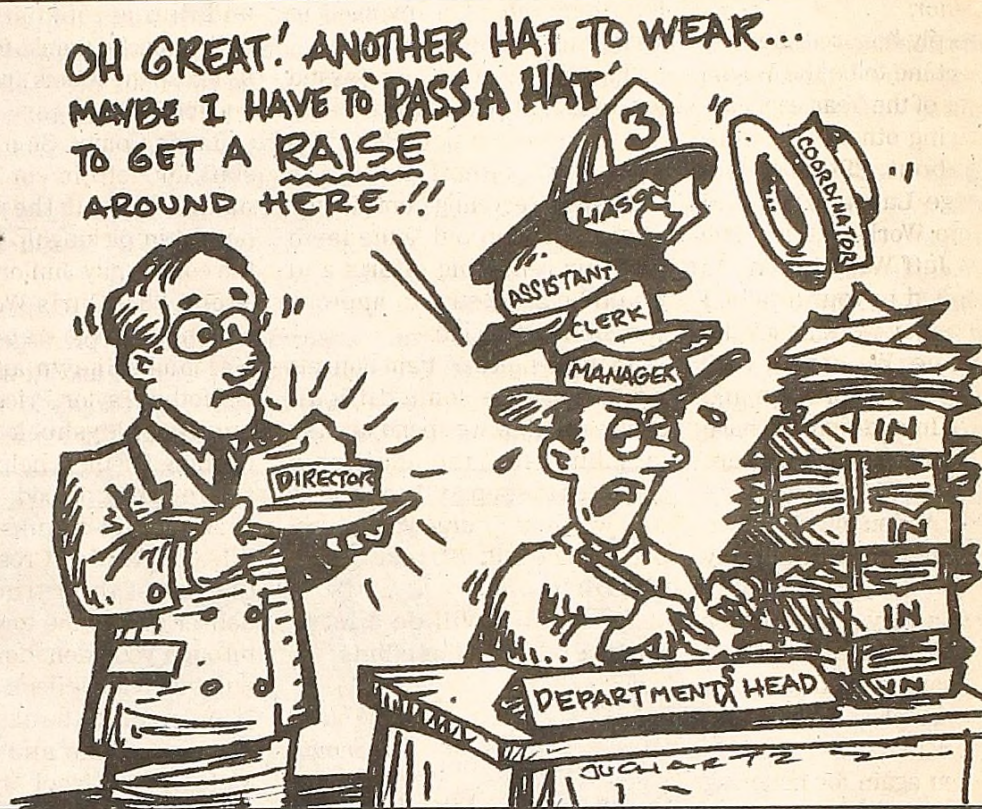
It's often a no-win situation, too. There's a common perception among taxpayers that, for the most part, municipal employees are overpaid. They get better benefits, better pensions, have more time off and they don't work as hard as the rest of us. But no one can really know if that's the case unless they take on the responsibilities of these municipal employees. Even then, it's virtually impossible to sweep everyone into one category.

The issue came up last month and again Monday night at the Westland City Council, when the council hosted a study session and later acted on a payment and benefit plan for department heads in the city. The typical comments came out: if you don't like your job, go somewhere else; you're already overpaid — that kind of thing. Phrases like 'slither out the back door' were used. It makes one wonder why they would take the abuse, even though it only comes around once a year.

Granted, this is a free market society and nothing prohibits a good, hardworking employee from seeking better alternatives elsewhere. It's also why regular raises are necessary — when you've got good people working for you, you want to take care of them.

In Westland, department heads make a certain percentage more than the highest paid employee within their department. It ensures

See Pay, page 5



## It was a very good year

The dawn of a New Year is a time to reflect back on the previous year and plan improvements for the upcoming one.

Everyone knows this. These improvements come in the form of New Years Resolutions; most of us make them on the first day or two in January and break them shortly after that.

They usually start out the same way, at least for me: This year, it's going to be different...

Well, in addition to the personal ones that I'm going to try to keep: eating better, exercising more, finishing my novel, etc. there are a few that relate to my job here that I would like to share. Who knows, maybe I'll look back at the end of the year and ask myself, hey, whatever happened to that idea? I may even be forced to do it sooner. I hope not, because they all relate to bringing a better product to your doorstep.

When we first took on the added task of running the former Michigan Community Newspapers about two years ago, I knew it would be a daunting task. It was unlike anything I had undertaken before, for one thing. I was — and still am, in my heart — a small town guy. I

balked at the initial responsibility.

The biggest immediate challenge was to return those papers to the reputation they had enjoyed before, without diminishing the reputation we had in other areas, specifically Plymouth and Northville. It's hard to say how successful we've been at that, to be honest. We receive a lot of positive feedback in person, but not a lot of input, in general. I guess I'm a bit of a cynic, and the lack of criticism is a concern. That's in part because I always believe we can do better and a constant influx of sunshine is simply met with skepticism.

It may be because of our location. In my last job, the newspaper office was located right in the center of downtown. It was a classic small-town newspaper office, complete with an old, barely-housebroken dog, and feedback was one of the constants. It was common for people to wander in, ask about something, pass along a compliment or what have you. It was pretty common, too, for the old-timers in Plymouth to come in and chastise me for some bit of historical perspective that I missed

out on, point out some fallacies and 'threaten' me with a rolled up edition, the way they might scold a naughty puppy. We don't get too much of that here, maybe because this section of Michigan Avenue isn't quite as pedestrian friendly as downtown Plymouth.

The nature of this business, and society in general, means that you can't make everyone happy. I've always tried to point out the good things that happen, put other things in perspective and hopefully, help solve problems, tossing out an opinion about things that give me cheer or cause me concern along the way. I don't always feel, though, that I've made a connection with the community, and that's one thing I'd like to change in the coming year, whether it's to be more visible in the community, more approachable or to simply make a better effort to return phone calls and answer email (which, at [sspielman@journal-group.com](mailto:sspielman@journal-group.com), is probably the best way to get a hold of me, particularly if I'm out in the community more.).

See Year, page 5

## Take this advice lying down

I often note that activities that improve health don't have to be hard work or take very long. Donating blood is something almost every adult can do in less than an hour — and lying down. Whole blood contains red blood cells, plasma and platelets. Each of these components can be transfused to several patients with different needs.

Patient needs are becoming increasingly urgent. According to the American Association of Blood Banks:

- Approximately 8 million Americans donate a total of 14 million units of whole blood during an average year.

- On average, 4 million patients require more than 23 million total units of blood components every year.
- Almost 40,000 units of red blood cells alone are needed every day.

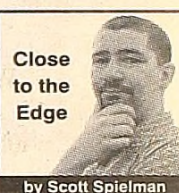
To be a donor, you simply need to:

- Be in good health
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be at least 17 years old (Some states accept donors less than 17 years old, with parental consent.)

To find out where you can donate, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543), or visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org).

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the

Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns titled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



by Ernie Harwell

# JOURNAL

NEWSPAPERS

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## Letters

### Newsmaker expresses thanks

To the editor;

I am deeply honored that you would select me to be the Wayne Newsmaker of the Year, especially considering others you were thinking about: 29th District Court Judge Laura Mack and United Auto Workers Local 900 President Jeff Washington. As you mentioned in your article, I very much enjoy working for the City of Wayne. We have a very good mayor, mayor pro-tem and city council. In addition, we have very capable employees, who are led by very dedicated department heads. As you might expect, this makes my job considerably easier.

2004 was a very good year for the City of Wayne and we are looking forward to making Wayne an even better place in which to live and work in 2005.

Thank you again for honoring me.

Sincerely,  
John Zech,  
Wayne City Manager

### Recycling efforts supported

To the editor:

Eighty four and nine 10ths percent of Michigan's trash goes into our landfills. Michigan's recycling rate of 15.1 percent lags way behind the efforts of most of the nation. By depending on landfills to dispose of our trash we are endangering the natural resources of our state.

We in Michigan have been blessed with a beautiful state with plenty of woods and water for our enjoyment. It is our responsibility to protect our environment for the generations to come. Michigan has depended on its deposit law since 1979, and let recycling efforts lag behind most of the country. Michigan beverage wholesalers and retail-

ers have accepted their responsibility, but it is not enough. Everyone must get involved in saving our resources.

The legislature has passed two bills that will require financial support to a new Recycling Advisory Council and to a Statewide Recycling Coordinator. These bills can put some teeth into our recycling efforts and would be a big step to improve our efforts statewide.

In these times of tight budgets we must make some difficult choices on how we spend tax dollars, but I feel the additional expenses to support these bills is well worth it. I urge you to support Senate Bill 790 and Senate Bill 854.

These bills will do a lot to improve our recycling efforts.

Bill Ventola,  
Plymouth

### Goodfellows send thanks

To the editor:

As we get ready to start the New Year, the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows hope every family has the happiest of holidays.

Another year has been successfully done. As program coordinator for the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, I personally would like to take this opportunity to send a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the program for 2004.

Over the past several months, the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows were able to make this Christmas brighter for over 125 local families and 287 children.

This would not have been possible without your generous donations and support from the local residents, the business community and the Van Buren Public Schools for their help in collecting food and toys.

er to reach a higher position. Department heads have also recently weathered a pay freeze and have worked diligently to cut costs, citywide. As a result, the city had a \$1.2 million fund reserve, rather than the \$200,000 they forecast.

cause of optimists, everywhere, because I'm always looking for a better tomorrow, myself. It's been a good year, and 2005 can be an even better one.

So looking back, I ask myself

To all the senior citizens who hold classes in the craft room and dining room at township hall, a special thanks for allowing us to use the rooms again for toys and food.

Linda Combs, Sr. director and staff for help in compiling the names, for all the guys who helped in picking up the food in the community, Junior Girl Scout Troop 283, Chris Webb, Marc Griebbe, Mike and Penny Holcomb, Shawn and Dakota LaMothe, Taylor Price, Candace and Noel Myshock and Dave Cushing for their help in sorting and re-boxing of food.

A special thanks to Glenn Silvenis-Re/Max Crossroads for the use of their truck to help deliver toys to the township hall through your donations that ere purchased at Meijer's.

A special thanks to Dave Cushing, Mike and Candace, Melodie and Noel Myshock for all their help shopping for toys on Dec. 5.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, we were able to distribute the food and toys with the help of Dave Cushing, Candace Myshock, Allen Smolen, deputy director of Van Buren Township Public Safety Department, Tim Smolen, reserve officer, Christopher DeWitt and a special thanks to the 34th District Court for allowing the community service workers once again to assist with the program.

All your help was greatly appreciated and is friends like yourself that work together to make this program a success and to make sure that "No child goes without Christmas."

May this coming year be a time of peace and prosperity for you and your families.

Happy New Year

Pam Fleming  
Program coordinator for the  
Belleville Van Buren Goodfellows

It's easy to make complaints because nobody likes to think that their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent frivolously. We don't think that's the case here, though, and the bottom line shows it. It's time to give them a little slack.

the same two questions: are we better than we were? Yeah, I think so. Can we be even better?

Yeah.

## Automotive art is now on display

Scott Spielman  
Editor

There will be a little foreshadowing going on this week at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

The show that opened up there this week and runs through the end of the month was designed to blend into one of the most popular events in the Detroit area: the North American International Auto Show.

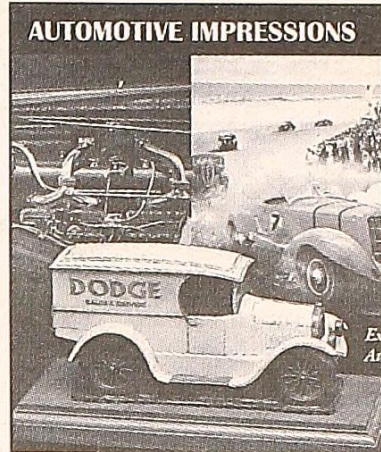
Nancy Pilon, who helped coordinate the event for the arts council, said the different types of work will come from three different artists: Gerald Freeman, Tom Hale and Alexander Buchan.

"Our three artists will present totally different approaches to the depiction of automotive art. They have each exhibited nationally and have had commissions from around the world," she said. "All have received numerous competitive awards for their work."

Hale, of Northville is a former styling designer at General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors, according to Pilon.

"His work is right out there," she said. "He concentrates on the details of the car. One whole painting may be just a headlight."

Freeman, originally from



Automotive Impressions is the theme of the current art exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Sheldon Road, south of M-14 in Plymouth.

London, England, now lives in South Lyon. A former freelance illustrator and graphic designer, he concentrates on the historic aspect of the industry, with several well-known paintings of historic races.

"His goal is to draw the viewer into the moment in time and feel the atmosphere and excitement of great auto races," Pilon said.

Buchan is a Warren resident who works in bronze sculptures. His works also have a historical flair - with racing machines from the early 1900s and the men who put them together.

The show opened on Tuesday and an artists' reception will take place from 3-6 p.m. on Jan. 8. The exhibit hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. The arts council is located on Sheldon Road, just south of M-14 in Plymouth.

We really think this exhibit has a lot of appeal for auto lovers everywhere and a great prelude for the big auto show," Pilon said.

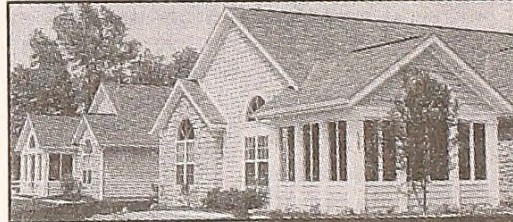
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## Pay

FROM PAGE 4

that people will want to work toward a promotion, which implies that they will work hard-

## Year

FROM PAGE 4

I also resolve to champion the

"Pic of the Week"



Ken & Amanda

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# TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

## The American jobs creation act of 2004 could affect you



**Sales tax deduction.** The new law creates an itemized deduction for state and local sales and use taxes. You can choose to deduct these taxes on your 2004 and

Coming soon to a tax return near you: the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. This new law contains changes that may affect your year-end tax planning.

2005 federal income tax returns instead of deducting state and local income taxes. If you pay no state income tax, you will, of course, choose the sales tax deduction.

To calculate the deduction, you'll have the option of totaling the actual dollar amount of sales tax paid during the year, or using a standard table provided by the IRS. You can add tax paid on certain large purchases, such as vehicles or boats, to the figure in the standard table.

**Planning tip:** Accelerating large purchases into 2004 may benefit you, assuming your itemized deductions will exceed the standard deduction amount (\$9,700 for married filing jointly, \$4,850 for singles).

Another consideration is the timing of

your final state income tax payment. If the sales tax deduction will be more advantageous, you might opt to defer the last estimated state income tax payment into 2005.

Be aware that if you're exposed to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), state and local taxes are not deductible when computing AMT liability.

**Vehicle donations.** Beginning in 2005, the new law tightens the rules for donations of vehicles to charity by placing a cap on the amount you can deduct and by requiring charities to provide

documentation.

Generally, for cars, boats, and airplanes with a claimed value of \$500 or more, your deduction will be limited to the sale amount if the charity sells the vehicle instead of keeping and using it. In addition, you must obtain written acknowledgement of your contribution from the charitable organization.

Other provisions in the law could affect you. Please call for an appointment to review the changes and their impact on your tax situation.

**Listen to Fred Grant's radio show "Inside Small Business" every weekend on or call Fred at 734-455-1040**



### Hearing loss, the invisible and often forgotten handicap!

Many of us participate in some form of medical preventative maintenance program, either with a 6-month cleaning at the Dentist, a bi-yearly eye examination by the Optometrist or our yearly physical with the Internist. However, when was the last time you had your hearing tested by an Audiologist?



**Gerald Hug MA, CCC-A**  
Clinical Audiologist

**What is an Audiologist anyway?** I hear this question often when asked what I do for a living. Simply, an Audiologist is an individual who provides diagnostic testing and rehabilitative treatment for the hearing-impaired population. Audiologists test patient's of all ages with various etiologies of hearing loss. They are employed in hospitals, schools, government, and private clinics. All Audiologists either have a Masters or Doctoral degree in Audiology from an accredited University.

Essentially, Audiologists perform hearing screenings and diagnostic testing for patients who feel they are having difficulty hearing and understanding speech.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' recommends a hearing screening for everyone once every 10 years from 18 to 50 years of age, with more frequent screenings after age 50. If a hearing loss is diagnosed, a comprehensive audiological examination by an Audiologist is recommended. Follow-up audiological testing thereafter is recommended every 2-3 years. The need for this type of testing is increasingly important, because of the incidence of hearing impairment in the United States. Hearing loss is not just a problem of the elderly either. According to a 1996 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than 28 million Americans of all ages are thought to have some degree of hearing impairment. Dr. Kochkin also has stated that since 1994, more than 1 million "baby boomers" between the ages of 45 and 54 have acknowledged a hearing problem, which required some type of audiological management.

In a recent article by Drs. Newman and Sandridge from the Cleveland Clinic, "Consequences of Hearing Loss" was discussed. They essentially stated, "hearing loss can seriously affect a person's quality of life". Limiting ones ability to listen in noisy situations and reducing participation in many social events that requires communicating with other people. Psychosocial effects of hearing loss also are seen through signs of withdrawal, cognitive loss, depression, social isolation, or psychosis. There are also risks of misclassification of the severity of senile dementia in elderly people with hearing loss. These are all excellent examples of why regular hearing screening or hearing testing should be performed to patients of all ages.

If you or someone you love believes you could benefit from a hearing test, I would strongly recommend that you consult with an Audiologist for purposes of obtaining a comprehensive audiological examination.

Gerald Hug MA, CCC-A  
Clinical Audiologist  
445 S. Harvey St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 451-0800



### Covering Your Assets Part IV

We've discussed different sources of down payment money and what lenders require to verify these funds. 401K or retirement accounts are sometimes used for down payment or as a source for reserves. Typically your most recent account statement will be satisfactory. However because of the nature of these funds you should keep some things in mind.



**Nelson Wilson**  
AVP-Senior Loan Officer  
The West Team/Chase Home Finance

If you are using these accounts for your down payment some plans allow you to 'cash out' a portion and other types allow you to borrow against it. Do keep copies of all the paperwork concerning the transaction. Include a copy of the check and the deposit receipt.

**"If you are borrowing against your 401K some lenders will include this as an additional debt."**

If you are borrowing against your 401K some lenders will include this as an additional debt. Though this may seem silly, since it is your own money, their view is that it is a monthly obligation. If you are tight on your qualifying ratios this could be an important consideration. It may affect whether you choose to 'cash out' or borrow.

Also if considering using a 401k or retirement account for down payment it is a good idea to consult with your financial planner or counselor to see if this is indeed the best choice for you considering your saving, investment and retirement goals. Extra thought should be given to using 401K or retirement accounts for down payments. Because there is a long term cost for doing so. And that is the cost of lost opportunity. That cost should be carefully weighed.

### When to Sell Real Estate

Many individuals have done well by investing in real estate over the years. Some of their investments have been in vacant land and others in rental properties. But there often comes a point in time when real estate, particularly residential rentals, is too demanding an investment compared to other assets such as stocks and bonds. So what is the best way to transfer the responsibilities of managing or even totally getting the asset out of your portfolio?



**Curt Whipple**  
C. Curtis and Associates, Inc.

With income properties, you could just hire a property manager. But sometimes this isn't cost efficient or perhaps you've had enough and just want out.

There are several ways to remove real estate from your portfolio and perhaps increase your income at the same time.

- An outright sale is the simplest. Tax consequences, however, can take up to 20% of your long-term gains (plus State tax plus recapture tax if it applies).

- An installment sale can ease the tax bite, but you will have to wait longer to get your money (yet pay all the tax today).

- A 1031 exchange to a less demanding or higher income producing property could simplify your life and defer income taxes. For example, selling your apartment building and using the equity to buy a McDonald's location results in less demanding property as the commercial tenant usually takes care of all property responsibilities.

- If you also want to help a charity, you could put the property into a charitable remainder trust that would sell the real estate without paying capital gains tax (and you an income as long as you live and even stretched to the next generation).

- You could use a "private annuity" if you desire to transfer the property to heirs and want to immediately remove it from your estate.

Another alternative would be to get a new mortgage to free up cash that you could put in other investments to further portfolio diversification. Before you make any changes though, you might want to take some factors into consideration. For instance, what does your family think of this? Do your children expect to get or stay involved with the real estate? And supposed your married. Would your spouse have the ability or even want to take care of real estate if you died? If not, you might end up leaving him or her with a bundle of problems and responsibilities.

Coming up with the appropriate strategy to remove real estate from your portfolio needs to be approached with a coordinated effort that addresses your financial, family, legal, and tax situation.

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MINUTES THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD  
DECEMBER 13, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD,  
ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Councilman William Wadsworth.  
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Michael Prybyla.  
Excused: Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear, Chairman Pro-Tem Debbie Romak,  
Councilman Charles Miller.  
Administrative Officials in Attendance:  
Alan Lambert, Mayor  
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk  
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-483  
2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held December 6, 2004 as corrected.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-484  
3A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of City Planner Cyndi Lyon and approve the vacating of Henry Ruff Road between Smith and Vining Roads based upon the provision in the Metro World Centre Planned Development Agreement and verification that the home at 34030 Henry Ruff has been vacated; and to provide funding and materials for a Historical Plaque with its inscription and placement to be decided by the Romulus Historical Society.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Abstain - Crova,  
Motion Carried.

04-485  
3B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to grant a six (6) year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFEC) to Southview Gladiolus Farms, 35935 Ecorse Road, Romulus, Michigan, 48174, with an expiration date of December 3, 2011.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes- Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-486  
3C. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with Planning Commission, and introduce rezoning of PC-2004-033, 5.01+- Acres from M-1 Light Industrial to MT-2 Industrial Transportation 2 District.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes.- Burcroff, Crova, Wadsworth.

Langworthy LeBlanc and Associates, Inc., dated October 6, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-487  
3D. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff concur with the recommendation of Planning Commission and the request of the Petitioner, PC-2004-034 and introduce an Ordinance to amend Appendix A, Zoning by rezoning 10.41+- Acres DP# 82-80-001-99-0008-704, 28645 Beverly Road, from M-1, Light industrial District to MT-1 Industrial Transportation I District.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-488  
3E. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Planning Commission and the request of the Petitioner, PC-2004-035 and introduce an Ordinance to amend Appendix A, Zoning by rezoning 6.015+- Acres DP# 82-80-001-99-0008-704, south side of Van Born Road, West of Inkster Road from C-2 General Business District to M-2 General Industrial District, consistent with the recommendation of City Planning Consultant Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc., letter dated October 6, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth  
Nays None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-489  
3F. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of Planning commission and the request of the Petitioner, PC-2004.021 and introduce an Ordinance to amend Appendix A, Zoning by rezoning 2.2+- Acres (9 Parcels), DP#’s 82-80-044-01-009-300 from C-2 General Business District to C-3 Highway Service District, 82-80-044-01-0013-301, 82-80-044-01-0022-000, 82-80-044-01-0024-300, 82-80-044-01-0026-300 from R1-B Single Family Residential District to C-2, General Business District, lot 59 and the western portion of lot 58 of DP# 82-80-044-01-0058-000 from R1-B, Single Family Residential District to C-2 General Business District, the eastern portion of lot 58 of DP# 82-80-044-01-0058-000 from RI-E] Single Family Residential District to C-3, Highway Service District, and DP# 82-80-044-01-0060-000, 82-80-044-01-0061-000, 82-80-044-01-0062-000 from R1-B, Single Family Residential District to C-2,

General Business District, south side of Ecorse Road between Middlebelt and Farnum Roads, consistent with the recommendation of City Planning Consultant Langworthy Strader LeBlanc and Associates, Inc., letter dated November 5, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing, Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Wadsworth.  
Nays -Prybyla.  
Motion Carried.

04-490  
4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the recommendation of legal counsel James E. Tamm and authorize him to proceed as directed regarding Orco Investments, Inc. vs City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth. Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-491  
5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Prybyla to concur with Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid 04/05-16 Demolition List 04-01 to the lowest overall bidder, Van Assche Construction in the amount of \$21,925.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-492  
5B. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff compliance with Sec. 31-1 of the Romulus Code of Ordinances to adopt a resolution to determine a need for street lighting to be specially assessed for the Ponds at Gateway Condominiums, and to direct the City Assessor to prepare a list of all lots and real property making up the total area of property affected by such improvement. Further, the City Engineer shall prepare a detailed estimate of all expenses incidental to such improvement and report same to City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla Wadsworth  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-493  
6A1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to concur with City Attorney Barry Seifman, to extend participation by Romulus in the Joint Management Committee for another year beginning January 1, 2005 with Department of Public Works Director, Carl Brooks as the City’s designated representative and Richard Suiter as the alternate.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-494  
6A2.Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with city attorney, Barry Seifman and authorize Mayor and Clerk to sign the Downriver Sewer Violation Settlement Stipulated Agreement resolving all consent decree violations in the matter of United States et al. V. Wayne County et al., Civil Act No. 87-70992 (E.D.Mi).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-495  
7. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to schedule a Study Session January 10, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the City of Romulus Council Chambers, located at 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 to discuss the upcoming Downtown Spring Festival.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unaninously.

04-496  
11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 04-23 in the grand total amount of Eight Hundred Forty Two Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty One Dollars and Ninety Five Cents (\$842,481.95).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None. Abstain - Burcroff.  
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Wadsworth.  
Nays -None.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held Deceber 13, 2004.

Linda R. Choate  
City Clerk

Publish: January 6, 2005



# Logged on

## Donors provide new high school computer lab

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

Students at South Middle School received a high-tech surprise this week when they returned from the holiday break: a new computer lab.

Thanks to the combined efforts and donations of Visteon, Cisco and IBM, the school has a renovated computer lab with 32 computers, new computer tables, curtains and fresh coat of paint on the walls.

Visteon contributed \$15,000, which South Middle School used to purchase 10 IBM computers. IBM donated an additional 22 computers and Cisco donated a package of switches and routers in tandem with a wireless network system. In total, the school received about \$70,000 in donations.

Recently, more than 35 volunteers from Visteon, Cisco, IBM and the Van Buren Public Schools came together to reconstruct the computer lab. The renovation included the installation of the software, painting, curtains and wiring, according to Bill Houston, principal at South Middle School.

"The workday was totally

impressive," he said. "Everyone just came together to get the painting and installation done pretty quickly. The biggest surprise of the day was the computer tables that were donated. They are a new modern design and go great in the think center."

Although the lab is not completely finished, Houston said when it is, it will have the newest computer models with "think centres," featuring the Pentium IX System, 17-inch flat screen monitors, CD/RW and DVD features, wireless capabilities, the Microsoft XP Office programs and the Deep Freeze security system.

"All the computers are here. We're just waiting for some of the hardware, but the remodeling is almost done and the room looks beautiful," he said.

And with the new computer lab, Houston said that the school will begin a new E-mentoring program near the end of this month. The program will match-up students with a mentor from IBM to correspond by e-mail once a week. Through the school-supervised program, students will explore the work life of an IBM employee, new academic skills and other career explorations.

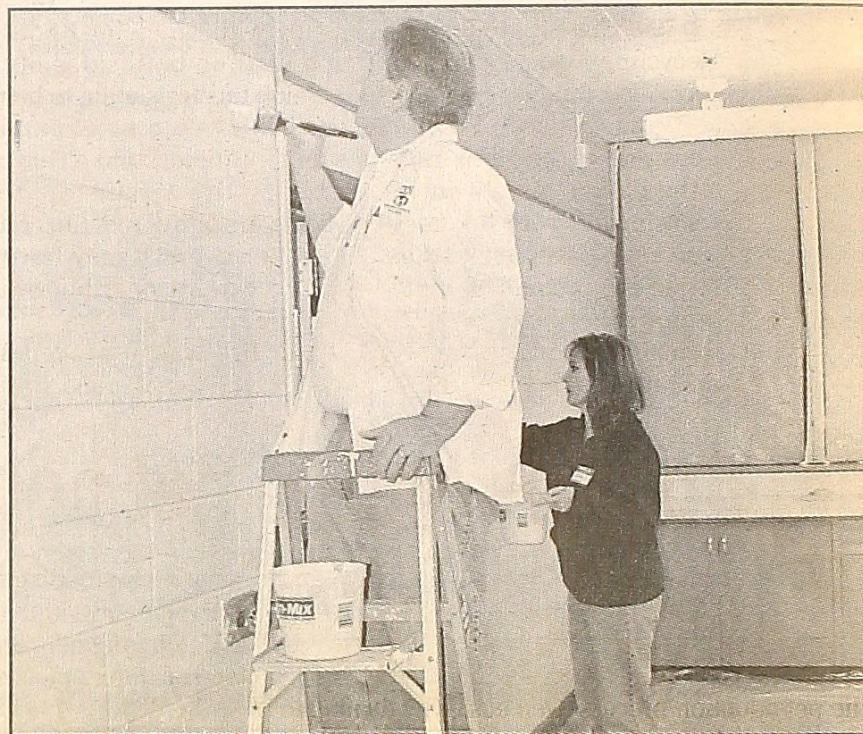


Parent Sheila Stranyak (above), who is a system administrator for the City of Ann Arbor, helped install one of the 32 wireless cards in the computers.

Bob Jones (left), software account manager for IBM and Donna Medrysa (right), purchasing and program office manager for Visteon, were just two of the many volunteers who helped renovate the South Middle School computer lab.

"We already have a third of the class signed up for the program," said Houston. "I'm humbled and honored from this donation. Now we are able to do programs like this."

The school will host a meeting for parents at 7 p.m. tonight at South Middle School about the new program.



## OBITUARIES

### SILVEY, Marguerite

Marguerite Lucile Silvey, 91, of Taylor, formerly of Romulus and Lewiston, died Dec. 21.

Among her survivors are her sons, Gordon C. (Wanda) Silvey and James Lee (Rose) Silvey, all of Romulus; eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Silvey was a bus driver for both the Lewiston Public Schools and the Romulus Public Schools.

She was a member of Community United Methodist Church in Romulus where the Rev. William Kren officiated at her funeral services.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

### BARRETT, Mary

Mary Evelyn Barrett, 78, of Belleville died Dec. 24.

Among her survivors is her husband of more than 58 years, Charles Paul Barrett; a son, Michael (Sandra) Barrett of Greenville, SC; a daughter, Connie Sue (Richard) Crawford of Canton Township; three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Barrett was employed with the Federal Aviation Agency for more than 20 years prior to her retirement.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Richard Crawford officiating.

Interment was at Arborcrest Memorial Park in Ann Arbor.

### SMITH, Helen

Helen Rose Smith, 90, of Belleville, died Dec. 22.

Among her survivors are her children, James E. "Smitty" (Doris) Smith of Cement City, Kathleen (Gerald) Pawlowski of Brooklyn, John W. (Sandra) Smith of Brighton, Shirley (Dane) Vlaz of Belleville and Arnold (Patricia) Smith of Myrtle Beach, SC; sisters, Marie (Steve) Smiertka and Eleanor Gabris, both of Detroit; 29 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and numerous great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith was employed at the Ben Franklin store in Belleville and was known as the "dime store lady."

She was a member of the Van Buren Senior Center and St. Anthony Catholic Church. Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

### STENMAN, Leroy

Leroy John Stenman, 70, of Ypsilanti, formerly of Romulus, died Dec. 26.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 47 years, Fay Joan (Brown) Stenman; sons, John (Angela) Stenman of Peck and Jim (Reba) Stenman of Belleville; daughters, Lori (Ronald) Bandy of Scottsville, KY and Linda (Joseph) Carrier of Wayne; siblings, Ester Gregory of Pennsylvania, Robert (Ella) Stenman of Plumville, PA, Jane (Edward) Iasacson of East Bradey, PA, Louise Good and Betty (George) Foose, all of Pennsylvania, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Stenman served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict.

Memorial services were at Grace Baptist Church in Belleville with Pastor Robert J. White officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

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# Governor vetoes proposed recycling council

Scott Spielman  
Editor

Legislation that would have provided a statewide Recycling Advisory Council and a statewide recycling coordinator was vetoed last week by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

The bills were part of a package designed to increase the recycling rate within the state, according to State Sen. Cameron Brown (R-Fawn River Township), who sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 790. That bill would have created the Recycling Advisory Council to help develop a coordinated recycling program.

"Michigan has one of the worst recycling rates in the nation, largely due to the lack of a coordinated statewide recycling plan," she said. "This legislation would have begun the process of implementing a comprehensive plan to improve our dismal performance."

Brown and State Sen. Patty Birkholz

(R-Sagatuck Township) chaired a Recycling Task Force that looked into the issue.

Birkholz sponsored SB 854, which would have established the statewide recycling coordinator; another recommendation of the task force. The position already exists within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), she said, but the legislation would have made the position a permanent one via statute.

"We worked diligently with senate and house members and staff on both sides of the aisle to develop this legislation to help local communities begin or expand recycling efforts," Birkholz said. "This package represents the first step to increase Michigan's pitiful recycling rate."

"The governor may have set us two steps backward today, but we're not giving up," she added.

Her bill was approved along party lines in the Senate, and primarily along

party lines in the House of Representatives, too, where it was approved 58-44.

Funding was an issue for some of those who voted it down.

"Without new funding or policy changes, the bills simply put off actions that could be taken to improve the state's low recycling rate," said State Rep. Kathleen Law (D-Gibraltar). "The administration also says the bills infringe upon the authority of the executive branch. SB 854 establishes a specific job description for an existing executive branch position, which should be the province of the DEQ director."

State Rep. Steve Bieda (D-Warren), said the intention was good,

but the policy flawed.

"Good intentions don't always translate into good policy," he said. "I voted 'no' on SB 854 because the new office created by the bill, that of statewide recycling

coordinator, is entrusted with an enormous amount of work, but with no funding and essentially no staff.

"Although the bill makes the office sound rather grandiose, this bill essentially creates a new cubicle at the DEQ - one that is not funded and would draw from

already scarce and limited resources of the department."

*"This legislation would have begun the process of implementing a comprehensive plan to improve our dismal performance."*

State Sen. Cameron Brown

*"Without new funding or policy changes, the bills simply put off actions that could be taken to improve the state's low recycling rate."*

State Rep. Kathleen Law

## Group uses online pet adoption site

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

The Buster Foundation in Belleville has made the pet adoption process even easier by turning to an online pet adoption service.

Recently, the foundation joined forces with Petfinder.com and, according to the organization, homeless pets in the area now stand a greater chance of being adopted.

Joanie Wazney, who runs the Buster Foundation, considers the online addition a blessing.

"Petfinder is a godsend for shelter and rescue groups," she said. "It gets the exposure out there, which is good for us because there are so many people who don't even know that there is a rescue group for this breed."

The Buster Foundation was formed about two years ago. It is a non-profit Pitbull/Bully breed mix education and rescue group. The rescue group provides the necessary spay and neuter services, medical treatments, shelter, obedience training, as well as adoption services, according to Wazney.

"My work is certainly cut out for me just because of how controversial the pitbull is, but I, myself, would never have another breed. They are a high-energy, strong and personable breed," said Wazney. "It's true that a larger dog can do more damage, but it's unfair to lump them all together as vicious killers. I try my best to train them and give them the best socialization skills."

Wazney added that even though the breed is typically stereotyped as violent, overall, they have had a high adoption rate. In just the past year she said more than 30 dogs were adopted.

"I'm pleased with the work we've done," said Wazney. "We get a lot of support from the area residents and I still hear back from a lot of the families that have adopted. The advantage to being in a foster-care environment is that we can get a better assessment of what the breed is all about."

But even though adoptions seem to be moving fast, Wazney said there are still many older dogs that need a home. She is confident the online adoption process will only benefit.

"We can get the dog photos out there as well and already we've been getting more calls," she said.

Petfinder currently has more than 160,000 homeless pets listed and it is updated daily.

Betsy Saul, president and co-founder of Petfinder, confirmed that people often drive long distances to get the pet they want.

"It makes finding a pet nearby easier," she said. "All the information is right there on the computer and potential adopters can search their local shelter from the comfort of home."

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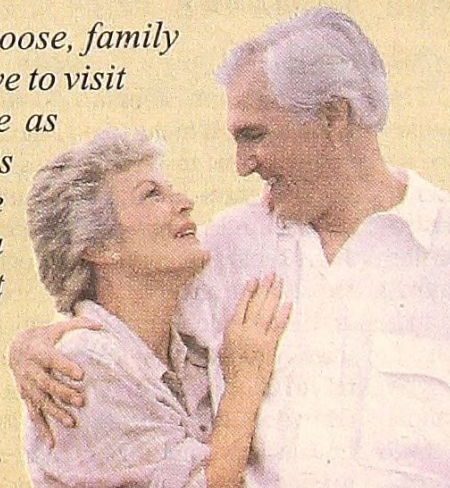
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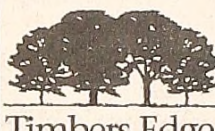
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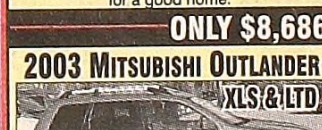
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# SPORTS

## Whalers lose 2004 finale, 5-4, to Sarnia in OT

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers didn't finish 2004 on a good note. They fell to division foes the Sarnia Sting, 5-4, in overtime last Thursday in front of a sold out crowd at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

It took nearly a complete overtime period before Sarnia's Michael Haley knocked one by Plymouth's replacement goalie, Justin Garay, for the win. Only 1:06 was left in the extra frame. Brad Efthimiou earned his fourth point of the night on an assist and Matt Palech was also credited with an assist.

Efthimiou scored three of the five goals for the Sting—all in the second period, and all within about a two-minute span.

After a scoreless first period, Plymouth struck first with a short-handed goal from John Mitchell at 6:52 in the second. John Vigilante and Mike Looby assisted on

the play.

With Mike Martinelli and Mike Knight in the box for hooking and roughing respectively, the way was paved for Efthimiou to score two power-play goals, back-to-back. The first, from Nicholas Tuzzolinno and Chad Painchaud, came at 15:08 and the second was scored unassisted at 16:44, which gave the Sting a 2-1 lead.

He scored his third straight at the 17:16 mark, which made it a 3-1 game. Mathis Olimb and Richard Clune earned the assists on the even-strength score.

That wasn't all for Sarnia, though. They kept their scoring streak alive in the third with a shot from Scott Restoule — his first of the year — at 2:14 of the session. Clune and Olimb helped on that goal, as well.

The rest of the period belonged to the Whalers. They scored three unanswered goals to knot the game, 4-4, and force the overtime period.

James Neal started the comeback with his 12th tally of the year. Mitchell and Ryan McGinnis helped on the play.

Jonas Fiedler added one at the 15:30 mark from Corey Tanaka and Neal. And Looby registered his third goal of the year to square things up with 1:17 remaining in regulation.

But the Sting deflated the hopes of 3,808 Whaler fans when Haley knocked in the winner in overtime.

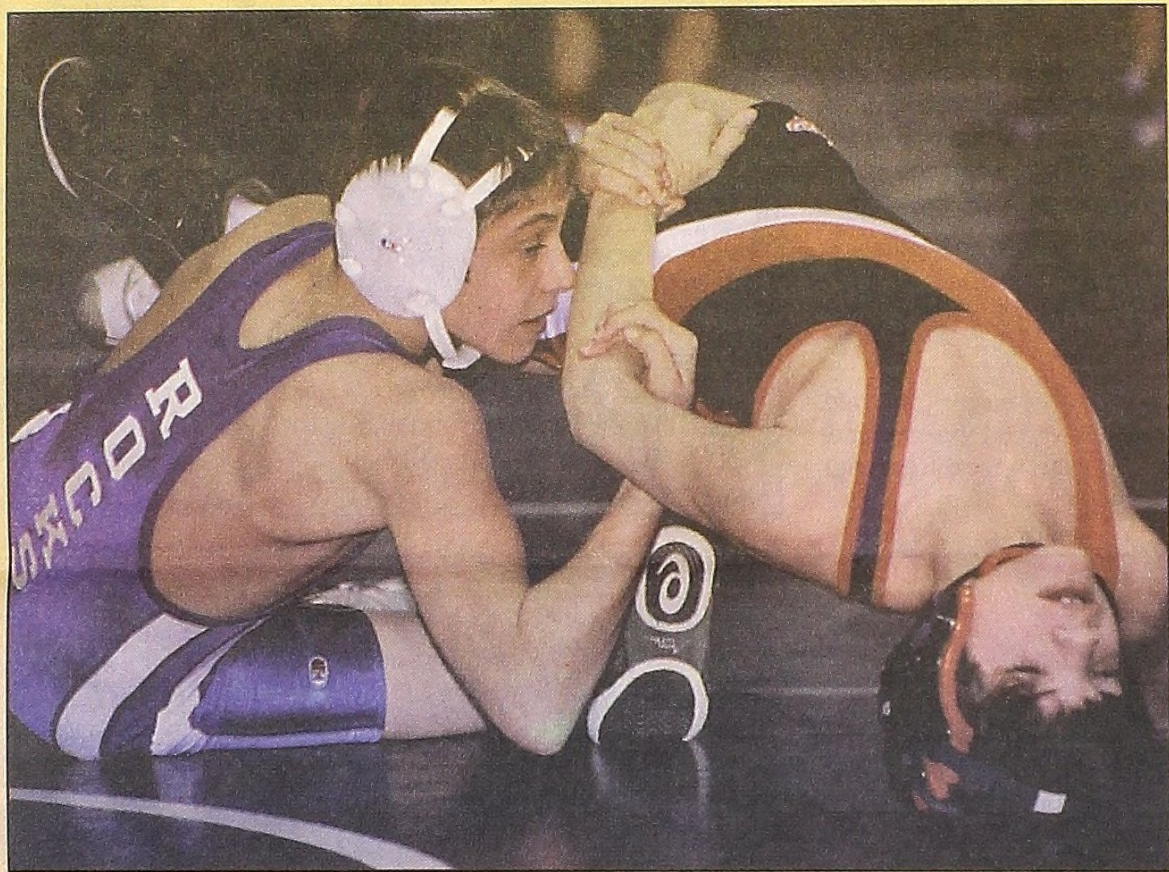
Despite the loss, the Whalers (15-14-4-3) remain in second place in the West division. They had help from Kitchener, who shut out the West's first place squad Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds (16-16-5-1), 3-0. Sarnia (11-21-4-1) is in fourth place in the West.

### Whalers 6, Battalion 2

Things went much better for Plymouth when they defeated the Brampton Battalion, 6-2, at home last Tuesday, their first game back on the ice after Christmas.

Mitchell led the scoring efforts with two goals and Ryan Nie solidified the win with 24 saves on 26 shots.

See Whalers, page 12



### Wrestle Mania

Last week, grapplers from across southeastern Michigan gathered for Salem High School's 17-team invitational tournament. Included were Salem, John Glenn and Romulus along with Monroe, Wyandotte, Dearborn, Brighton, Greenville, Fraser, Lincoln Park, Harper Woods Notre Dame and others. Above, a Salem wrestler grapples with an opponent from Monroe at the 103-pound weight class. Salem won the match by pin. Salem Coach Greg Wochuck did not provide final results from the tournament.

## Plymouth gymnasts perform, despite small team adversity

Jason Carmel Davis  
Staff Writer

The Plymouth High School gymnastics team is currently in a very interesting situation. Gymnastics at the school is a no-cut sport and, because of the size of the team, the girls can't qualify for a team score.

"I need at least five or six girls on each event to count for a team score," said Head Coach Melissa Chang. "If someone gets hurt, there is no one to replace them."

Chang presently has three performers who record individual scores at meets. In their first meet of the season, only one girl could compete, as the other two gymnasts were ill. In their second contest, each girl performed

admirably, Chang said.

This is Chang's initial campaign with the team. While there are some drawbacks to having such a small unit, there are some positives, as well. All except one performer — a sophomore Paige Tofil — are new to the squad.

"Having a new coach was easy for them because they had never known anyone else," Chang said. "Also, we're really able to get to know each other and be very productive in our practices."

Chang said the girls would like to eventually field a larger team, but they are very happy with their current situation.

Even with such a small squad, Chang said she expects one of the younger performers to shine

this season.

Freshman Jordan Brodehl is the team's only all-around gymnast, as she competes on the vault, bars, beam and floor exercise. Chang said she came to Plymouth with a great deal of experience. She was a high level gymnast at the Michigan Academy of Gymnastics. Due to an injury, she has competed in just one meet, but Chang said she expects her to excel this season.

"I anticipate her having a great first year, and I look to her to continue to improve in her years to come because she is only a freshman," Chang said. "She is a very hard worker, and is a great leader to the other girls."

## St. Mary's tops Zebras with buzzer-beater

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

Orchard Lake St. Mary's was the Grinch who stole Christmas from the Wayne Memorial Zebras when they met in a post-holiday game at the River Rouge Invitational tournament last week.

It was St. Mary's sophomore guard Kalin Lucas that stuffed the coal in the Zebras' stocking. Not only did he score 29 points in the 69-67 victory, he nailed the winning basket as time expired in the fourth quarter.

"It was close throughout; back and forth the whole way," said Wayne Coach Wayne Woodard. "He (Lucas) threw up an off-balanced shot and it rolled around the rim and went in. There wasn't much we could do about it."

Wayne led 16-15 after the opening quarter, but St. Mary's came back in the second frame and outscored them 20-15 for a four-point lead at halftime.

In the third, it was Wayne's turn to outscore St. Mary's, 20-18, but they still trailed by two, 51-53. They evened things up at 67 before Lucas' shot rolled in and time expired.

Senior center Chris McLaurin assisted on the play. He passed the ball up to Lucas, who shot it in from about 10 feet out, according to Woodard. McLaurin sank 20 points and nabbed 13 rebounds in the win, too.

The loss was Wayne's fourth this season by four points or less.

Senior guard Danny Walsh led the Zebras with 20 points. Gene Nix added 16, Maurice Nelson, 14, and Rodrick Walker, 12, for Wayne.

Things continued to go every way but the right way for the Zebras at the tournament. They

fought another tough battle when they faced Southfield in the consolation match-up the following day.

There, they were up 41-39 at the start of the fourth frame but Southfield started the final period with nine unanswered points, which put Wayne down 48-41.

The Zebras only mustered up nine points in the fourth, which allowed Southfield to secure the win, 57-50.

Wayne had a two-point lead, 17-15, after the first period of play. An eight-point second quarter put them behind 25-28 at the half, but they regained the lead, 41-39, at the end of three.

Woodard said the loss to St. Mary's didn't affect their play against Southfield.

"We just couldn't put the ball in the basket," he said. "We had five or six possessions we didn't score on and the shots we could

make easily weren't going in."

Walsh managed 16 points in the game for Wayne.

Antonio Harrison hit for 15 and Derek

Summers, 13, for Southfield.

A 0-5 start to the season isn't something that Woodard anticipated but he remains positive as league play starts tomorrow.

Before losing to Southfield by just seven, Wayne hadn't lost a game by more than four points.

"It's not that we didn't compete — we just didn't win," he said. "We just need our first win to get going in the right direction. We'll get it eventually — the sooner, the better."

Wayne had another warm-up to the season with a match against Taylor Truman on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. They will start league play tomorrow night with a trip to Walled Lake Northern.

**"We just need our first win to get going in the right direction. We'll get it eventually — the sooner, the better."**



# Canton hockey shoots and scores with 'Big Goals' program

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Canton varsity hockey team not only makes goals on the ice – they're setting them off of it, as well.

The team recently spent most of their holiday break hitting the pavement hoping to score big for the Children's Hospital of Michigan with their "Big Goals" fundraising campaign.

The team is reaching out to local businesses and individuals for pledged donations for every goal they score this season; they hope to score 100. The money generated is planned to go specifically for the improved research of pediatric oncology along with the care and treatment of children with cancer, according to first-year coach Mike Behen.

Behen realizes that not too many high school players go on to play in the NHL and designed the hockey program at Canton as an AP program.

"One of the best things they'll get from this is the ability to set goals for important reasons and then try to achieve those goals through a concerted effort and that's what we're trying to do," Behen said. "The other thing is just to try and give something to the community."

It's more than a fundraising campaign, he added. Behen hopes the players learn a

personal lesson through the season.

"I want them to learn if they want to get things done in the world that they would have to work together with other people, set lofty goals and work together to achieve those goals," Behen said. "The other thing I want them to know is that there are lot of people out there that have a lot of issues going on and they need help. Our responsibility as citizens is to help out those that need assistance."

Knowing that they definitely wanted to do something in the community, Behen sat the team down and discussed who they would want to benefit from their endeavors. As a team they decided on the oncology unit of the Children's Hospital of Michigan. From there, the "Big Goals" project was set into motion.

"We all agreed that there is nothing worse than a kid with cancer," he said. "I think just about everyone on the team knows at least one person who has had cancer."

Co-captains and seniors Reece McCabe, a forward, and Ben Laurin, a defenseman, lead the team on and off the ice.

"We hope to help out all the kids at the children's hospital and make it a learning experience for us," McCabe said.

Behen, who also holds a PhD in clinical psychology and works at the hospital, said he plans to take the team to the cancer



From left: Canton co-captain Reece McCabe, Annie Einheuser, Head Coach Mike Behen and co-captain Ben Laurin lead the efforts in the hockey team's "Big Goals" program to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Michigan oncology.

level floor of the hospital so they can see first hand what they are doing this for. "Every time I walk by a kid with cancer it makes me feel terrible," he said.

Behen's niece, Annie Einheuser, has also helped out with the efforts.

"I'm helping coordinate," she said. "I think it's an important cause and I wanted to help."

The team has scored 37 goals already this year and are on pace to hit their lofty mark of 100. With 16 regular season games left, they only need to average four goals per game, but there is also the district and regional playoffs to add to the total. So far they have averaged more than four goals in their first eight games. Pledges will be

accepted until their last game of the year, which McCabe hopes is March 13 – the state championship game.

State championship or not, the Chiefs are confident they will hit their goal.

"We'll definitely hit the 100 goals", said Laurin.

For more information on making a pledge contact Mike Behen at (313) 354-3920; (313) 584-8540; or email at mbehenn@pet.wayne.edu. Pledge forms are available on the team's website, [www.eteamz.com/cantonchiefshockey](http://www.eteamz.com/cantonchiefshockey) and at all home games. Canton's next three games are at home at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena against Detroit Country Day, Walled Lake Western and Plymouth.

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# Tigers top Southwestern, 60-50, remain undefeated

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tigers will start the New Year with a brand spanking new 5-0 record.

The belated Christmas present is in part due to a 60-50 victory against Detroit Southwestern at the Motor City Roundball Classic at the University of Detroit Jesuit during the holiday break.

Belleville led early and never looked back, something they have grown accustomed to in their first five games.

They jumped ahead in the first quarter, 19-13, and continued to add to their lead with a 13-8 second period. Southwestern outscored Belleville, 13-10, in the third but the Tigers maintained a 12-point lead, 42-34. Belleville was strong again in the final frame of play with 18 points to wrap up the 60-50 win.

Leon Freeman scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Tigers. Josh Samarco and Anre Partee each added 10 points while Partee assisted on six others.

Belleville Coach Mike Krogel said it had been almost two weeks since the team took to the court competitively and he saw areas that need improving. He said there was a total of 22 turnovers, 11 in each half.

"When it got a little race-horsey it got a little sloppy," he said. "There were too many unforced errors. Part of that was that we hadn't played in two weeks.

"We also gave up a lot of offensive rebounds. We did a good job defensively on their guards, but the big guys inside got the ball. In the second half they had a lot of second opportunities."

Krogel said he hopes that they can cut down on the sloppy play when Mike Gibson and Demarcus Boone are eligible after this semester ends in mid-January. He said the two players would add depth and allow other players to rest more when they need it.

Belleville took on Allen Park at home on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. They face Monroe tomorrow night in Belleville.

## Around the court

### Romulus falls to Lawrence North

During holiday break the Romulus Eagles traveled to Indianapolis, IN and faced the No. 3-ranked team in the nation, Lawrence North, but lost 86-66. NBA prospect Greg Oden scored 22 for Lawrence in the Circle City Classic. Dante Williams scored 28 points, including six three-pointers for Romulus.

### Northville splits week in Dexter

Northville split their games at the Dexter Tournament last week.

They lost to Dexter 45-56 in the first game. J.D. Gerblick led the team with 18 points and eight rebounds and Alvin Storrs added 10 with five assists.

Rob Zalucki scored 17 and Jeff Ziegler 12 for Dexter.

They went on and defeated Rochester 62-52 in their second game. Storrs led the 'Stangs with 15 points and four steals and Gerblick added 14 and nabbed six boards. Alan Shanoski also hit for double digits with 12 and Mike Jameson made 10.

Steve Steucher scored 17 for Rochester.

### Rockets defeated twice in River Rouge tournament

The John Glenn Rockets lost both of their games in the River Rouge Invitational. They fell to Southfield, 71-53, when Antonio Harrison and Brandon Williams each scored 18 for Southfield.

Alex McMillian scored 17 and Duncan Jones 13 for Glenn.

Utica Eisenhower also defeated the Rockets, 54-30, in the tournament. Senior center Barry Eberhardt scored 17 for John Glenn.

Senior guard Andrew Pandy hit for 19 for Eisenhower.

### Canton Chiefs top Fightin' Irish

The Canton Chiefs forced past the Fightin' Irish of Notre Dame High School with a 65-42.

Senior forward Julian Smith led the team with 14 followed by Steve Paye with 10.

Sophomore center Bobby Gibson scored 18 for Notre Dame.

The victory closed out the year for the Chiefs, who have a 4-1 record.

# Canton grapplers place 2nd at Brother Rice tournament

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Canton grapplers were primed for a first place finish at the Brother Rice varsity team tournament last week, but they stalled after the break and fell to Franklin in the finals.

The Chiefs stormed through the first three rounds of the competition and defeated Dearborn Heights Robichaud (55-12), Troy Athens (70-3) and Carlton Airport (45-24).

After the lunch break it was a different story, though.

That was when they first wrestled against West Bloomfield. Canton started off well with a 28-10 lead before there was drastic change in the momentum - West Bloomfield managed five straight pins to steal the 40-28 victory.

Canton still had enough points to move on to the finals against the Franklin Patriots, though. They kept it close, but Franklin edged out a 39-29 victory to win the competition.

"I'm a little disappointed," said Canton Coach Casey Randolph. "We wrestled awesome for three-quarters of the day but after the break we were lethargic. We came out flat.

"It's good to know that we can wrestle poorly and still come in second, though."

The undefeated 130-pound Corey Philips and Ryan Webb (135) continue to anchor the team's solid standings.

Philips was a monster on the mat. He was undefeated, 5-0, with all of the victories earned by pins. Webb was also undefeated, 5-0, on the day.

Konrad Konsitke only suffered one loss in the tournament at 140 pounds and that was to Chris Kinaya from West Bloomfield, who is ranked fourth in the state, according to Randolph.

Marwan Faraj (152) and P.J. Caram (189) were both solid with 4-1 records for the day while Tom Bonnell (215) and Alex Freitag (169) went 2-1.

Canton is 13-5 already this season compared to an 11-13 overall record at the end of last season. They still have 10 tournaments remaining this year.

Canton may get a little sweet redemption tonight when they get a rematch with Franklin.

"We're not looking for revenge or redemption," Randolph said. "We just want to come out and compete like we're capable of doing."

The match is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Canton North Gymnasium.

again halfway through the third. Tim Sestito and Dan Collins notched the assists.

Brampton's Patrick Sweeney scored on a power play, but that would be all for the Battalion.

Mitchell, from Knight, scored on an empty net, which made it 5-2, and Gino Pisellini, from Tanaka, put the game away, 6-2.

Plymouth started the New Year with a trip to Saginaw on Tuesday, but the results were unavailable at press time. The game kicked off a five-game road trip where they will play Barrie tonight before they head to Sudbury tomorrow. Then they will face the top team in the division when they travel to Sault Ste. Marie on Sunday. They finish the road trip against cross-river rivals Windsor next Thursday.

## Whalers

FROM PAGE 10

Looby opened up the assault for the Whalers and Fiedler added a power-play score for a 2-0 lead after the first period. Fiedler, Mike Letizia, Vigilante and Knight all recorded assists on the two goals.

Mitchell, from Letizia and Vaclav Meidl, made it a 3-0 game at the 8:24 point in the second frame. But Brampton's Tyler Harrison closed the gap to 3-1 three minutes later with help from Wojtek Wolski and Michael Vernace.

Plymouth took it to them in the third with three more goals.

Neal extended the lead to three goals

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# THE SCENE

## Film biography soars with tale of eccentric millionaire

# THE AVIATOR

Reviewed By  
John Counts  
Staff Writer

When he chose Howard Hughes' early life as the subject of his new movie, *The Aviator*, Martin Scorsese avoided what most remember about the wealthy Texas playboy: that he spent the later part of his life as a naked recluse in a Vegas hotel room with uncut fingernails, collecting bottles of urine and wearing tissue boxes for shoes. When he died at 70, authorities had to use fingerprinting to verify his identity—he hadn't been seen in that long and his appearance had changed that drastically.

We have Michael Jackson; the 20th century had Howard

Hughes.

But before he descended into the depths of his own phobias and went on record as the strangest rich guy in American history, Hughes, who inherited a fortune from his father's oil drilling company when he was 18, had a varied career in show business and aviation. He is the man credited with inventing the Hollywood blockbuster and making huge advances in aviation, all without ever graduating from college.

The script, penned by John Logan, tries to neatly fit Hughes' early life into a sort of rise-and-fall story. The movie follows

Hughes during these exploits, from the 1920s to the 1940s, as he romances both Hollywood starlets and shiny new planes. And for the most part, Hughes' manic exhilaration (rendered well by Leonardo DiCaprio) delightfully speeds the film along with a tank full of jet fuel. By the end, though, the flight has gone on a little too long. We are feeling weary and ready to disembark. Unlike Hughes, who slams a test plane into a Beverly Hills neighborhood, the movie never crashes, but never soars to new heights, either. Even so, *The Aviator* is quality filmmaking by one of America's best directors.

While the rise is uplifting, the intended fall never seems to happen or pay off for the audience. By the end, the film focuses on Hughes' battle with Pan Am boss Juan Trippe (Alec Baldwin) and his Washington cronies (Alan Alda plays a slimy senator). This part is simply not that compelling and the only thing that keeps the engines revving is the mystery of Hughes himself.

Scorsese has always enjoyed taking on big, enigmatic per-

sonas—Jake LaMotta, Jesus Christ—and he succeeds with a compelling character in Hughes, though maybe not to the same level as with the other films. We are introduced to him in one flashback scene as a child, where he is being washed

by his mother a little too creepily, which attempts to explain his future troubles. Then, it's Hughes in Hollywood, inventing the blockbuster movie with *Hell's Angels*. But all the while,

See *Aviator*, page 15





THE SCENE

# LIFE AQUATIC

## Quirky film follows director's past efforts

The *Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* is sure to please those who have been eagerly waiting for the "new Wes Anderson movie", but it will also leave many of them hoping that he moves in a new direction with his next picture.

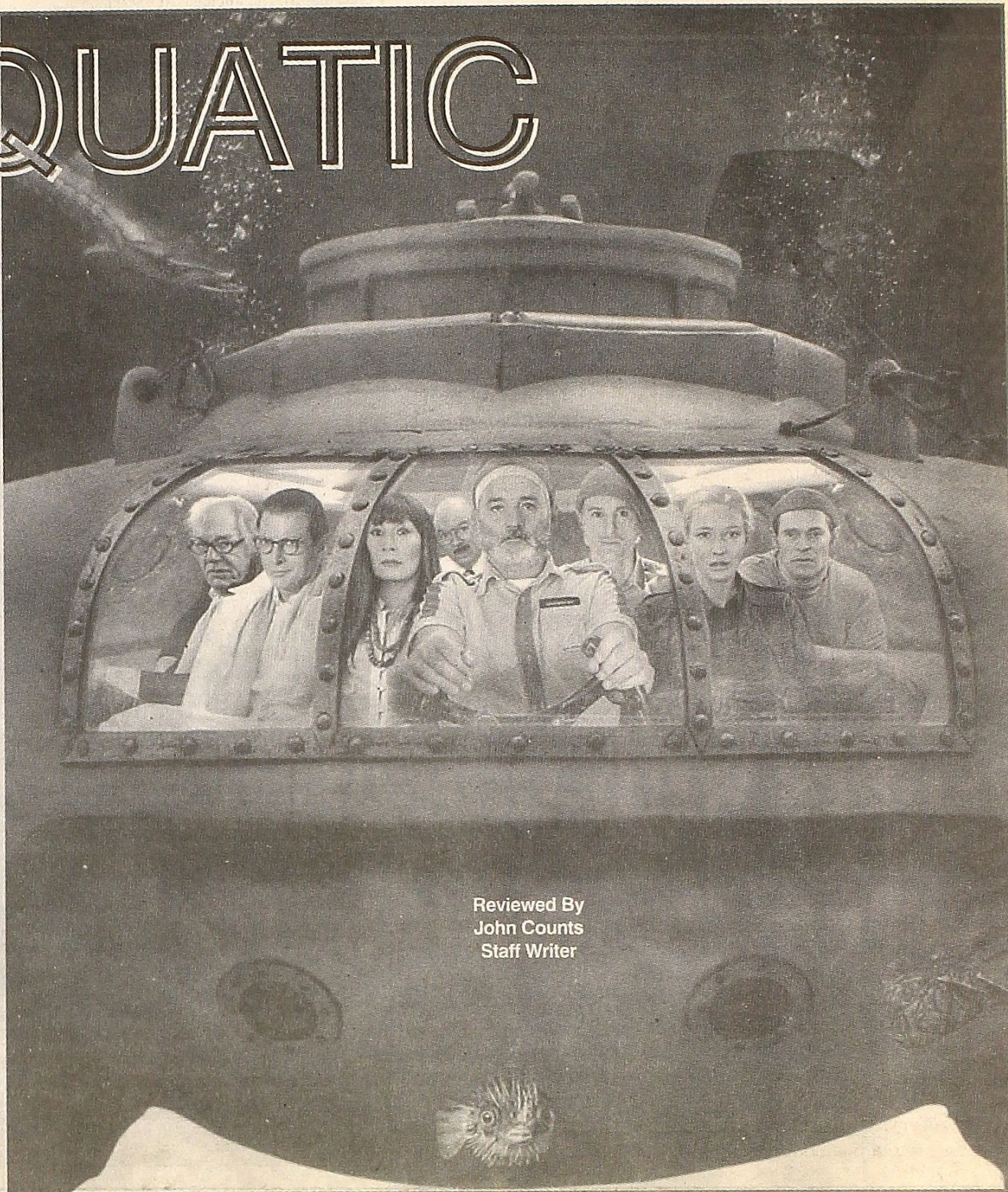
*Life Aquatic* shares many qualities with the director's previous two movies, *Rushmore* and *The Royal Tenenbaums*: offbeat characters deadpanning their way through highly stylized sets. The crew in *Life Aquatic*, as a matter of fact, may as well be the Tenenbaums going on a sea adventure. Many of the same actors even appear in it.

Steve Zissou, played by Bill Murray—who starred in lesser roles in Anderson's previous two movies—is a Jacques Cousteau-like oceanographer who films his sea adventures. He plays a Royal-like father to a motley crew aboard the *Belafonte*. Like Royal, he is the depraved patriarch whose bad behavior we can't help but enjoy watching. While Murray excels in this role, it would have been nice to see a different character in the "new Wes Anderson movie."

After his longtime partner is eaten by the elusive jaguar shark (one of many animated sea creatures in the movie that don't really exist), Zissou plans Ahab-like revenge on what may or may not be his last voyage. His movies aren't as popular as they used to be and funding is drying up. And so he and "Team Zissou," clad in baby blue sailing suits and red beanies, set sail on a trip that is more like something out of a children's storybook than reality.

The attempt to catch and kill the shark sets the voyage in motion, but it sits in storage as other intrigues manifest. Ned Plimpton (Owen Wilson) shows up, announcing he's Zissou's long-lost son. They then proceed to duke it out for the affection of a newspaper reporter played by Cate

See *Aquatic*, page 15



Reviewed By  
John Counts  
Staff Writer

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# THE SCENE

## Aquatic

FROM PAGE 13

Blanchett. There is even more going on than this: pirates hijacking the boat, Zissou's rocky marriage with his wife (Angelica Huston) and a rivalry with fellow oceanographer Alistair Hennessey (Jeff Goldblum). At times, it's difficult to know where to direct your attention as the different plots tangle with each other like the swimming legs of one of the animated octopuses.

But Anderson's movies aren't about plot, they're about relationships and style. His comic sensibility enjoys watching characters squirm as they try to connect, utterly fail, but always keep trying. It's this persistence that has been the source of the sweet, tragicomic tone in all of his movies, including *Life Aquatic*. Though there was a noticeable difference that his usual writing partner Wilson was content just acting, (Noah Baumbach was brought in as a replacement) there are many humorous exchanges, usually with Murray on one end of them.

Anderson loves to dress up his characters and scenery and his movies are always noticeably different from others. He has a taste for self-consciously contrived scenery, where a boat doesn't look like a boat, but how

a boat would look like in a child's imagination. He goes out of the way to make sure even the background details like telephones and recording equipment are unlike any you would see in real life. He mostly substitutes them with their 1970s counterparts, the decade Anderson spent in his own childhood musings, and the funkier the better.

The same goes with costumes. Anderson, for whatever reason, loves jumpsuits. He employed them in his first feature, *Bottle Rocket*, where they worked a lot better than *Life Aquatic*. The suits may make comic characters with no ability feel more professional, but it's like hearing the same joke over and over again. The same goes with 1970s tennis shoes Anderson always shines a spotlight on in his movies. It seems he enjoys turning his characters into little retro figurines he can dress up, which was fine in Tenenbaums, but old by the time his fans will see *Life Aquatic*. Just because his costume designer knows her way around the thrift store doesn't make the movie any better. Hopefully, he will find other sources of inspiration the next time around.

The *Life Aquatic* is still a worthy journey by one of America's best young directors, though. It may not be breaking any new water for Anderson, but it's still more refreshing than most anything out there.



## Aviator

FROM PAGE 13

he's planning to build airplanes. And he's also romancing the likes of Katherine Hepburn (Cate

Blanchett), who the movie turns into his main squeeze, and Ava Gardner.

This is where the movie is high-flying and Scorsese has the style to match. His love of old Hollywood shines though with

scenes at clubs where Hughes rubs elbows (or obsessively and compulsively avoids it, actually) with stars like Errol Flynn. Scorsese wants us to see an American visionary, a great character in history who has helped shape things into what they are now.

But the Hughes we know in the Vegas hotel is always lurking throughout the movie. In an attempt to explain why Hughes ended up the way he did, Scorsese has DiCaprio portray Hughes as an obsessive compulsive germ-freak who can get stuck on phrases in a Tourettes-like way. Despite these moments, we aren't prepared for Hughes' first meltdown when he locks himself in a screening room, grows the nails long and fills his bottles with urine.

In a nutshell, nothing in the movie explains Hughes' problems, though it unfortunately tried—Hughes' successes (and

failures) were due to a wide-reaching vision, not because of his eccentricities.

It's almost as if Scorsese is ashamed that a man of such capabilities can succumb to such madness.

So, instead of dealing with it as the truth of Hughes' character, we just get a brief look into the bizarreness, as if he didn't want to put those parts in there, and only did so to please those in the audience who came to see the sideshow.



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## 1. Obituaries

James E. Madigan, age 83, of Tecumseh, formerly of Ypsilanti died December 30, 2004. He was born July 4, 1921 the son of J. Charles and Grace (Lezotte) Madigan. On June 18, 1949 he married Dorothea J. Mulholland. She survives.

He enlisted in 1939 in the National Guard 32nd Signal Company, serving five years during World War II. James graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1951. He was an Elementary School Teacher and Building Principal for 30 years. He taught at Main Street School, Northville. He also was Post Commander of Northville American Legion Post #147. He was also a lifetime member of the Ypsilanti American Legion Post #282.

In addition to his wife Dorothea, he is survived by his children, Mary Jeanne Madigan, Eileen (Frank) Rowland, Patricia (Paul) Bacigal, James K. Madigan, Thomas (Donna) Madigan, Christopher (Therese) Madigan, John (Margaret) Madigan, Kelly (Rick) Bulick, and Carolyn (Peter) Rathack; 25 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; two brothers, Charles (Paula) and Norman; and three sisters, Ann (Joseph) Spreitzer, Marie (Herbert) Wegener, and Rosemary (William) Ulmer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Robert and Daniel, and sister Mary Grace.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, January 3, 2005 at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

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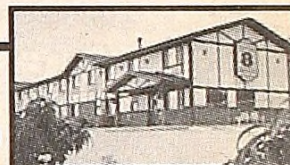
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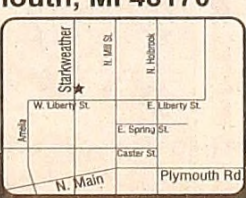
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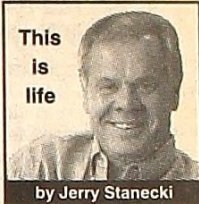
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# Try to fake it until you can make it real



If you just can't feel it, fake it until you make it  
"It sounds easy enough," Mary said, but actually believing that it really works is another story.

We were talking about choosing to believe that everything that happens in your life happens for your good.

"Do you really believe that?" she asked.

"If I didn't, it would never be reality for me. We all know that what we think, is how we will feel," I answered.

"Yeah, but it's not easy to change," she said. "And, what if you never learn why what happened is good for you?"

"The secret is believing what's happening is for your good with

the belief that you may never know. If you having trouble doing that, fake it until you make it. Got it?"

"I guess," she said.

Trying another way to explain it to Mary, I told her the story of a 15-year-old boy who was struggling with life.

While visiting relatives in St. Louis one Christmas, Bob and a cousin decided to jump a freight train for fun. Running along side the slow moving freight, the boys were jazzed, yelling and laughing they took the leap and grabbed the iron ladder at the end of a car.

Suddenly, Bob lost his grip and was sucked under the train. Like razors, the steel wheels sliced off his leg at the knee.

Back home, his life got worse: drugs, parents divorce, trouble at school, with the law, you name it, the kid was into it.

One day, Bob saw a man on television who helped people with problems in life. Bob wrote asking for help. The man answered, asking if Bob had courage. Bob said, yes.

The television newsman made all the arrangements and took Bob to the mountains where expert amputee skiers taught Bob how to ski downhill on one leg.

Life got better, Bob got older, married, had children and built a successful business making prostheses for amputees. Yet,

occasionally, Bob still gave away a lot of happiness by feeling sorry for him.

One day, he imagined himself crossing a railroad track on his way home from work. Suddenly his prosthetic leg got caught between two narrow tracks. A freight train is coming fast. Bob starts to panic, then remembers the source of his self pity. He reaches down, unstraps the leg and hops to safety as the train roars past.

The next day Bob remembered the man from television and sent him a note. "I wanted you to have this, thanks again." In the box was the first gold metal

Bob had won in the handicapped Olympics.

It's a good time of year to make yourself a promise to choose to believe things happen for a good reason in your life. . .even if you're never shown why.

Save \$4.50 on Jerry's book: "Life is a Joke and God Wrote it," Normally, \$19.50 the book is \$15. Just clip this notice or ad and send check or money order to: Jerry Stanecki, P.O. Box 121 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303. To receive a thought for the week or contact Jerry, go to: [www.jerrystanecki.com](http://www.jerrystanecki.com)

## Holiday trees to be recycled

Due to a change in the Northville waste disposal contract, after the holiday season residents can help put their Christmas tree to good use—in the garden.

The department of public works will pick up residents discarded trees at the curbside.

"What this pickup does is earmark the trees to be chipped and turned into mulch," said James Gallogly, director of the Northville Department of Public Works. "We've done it in the past, but we had to stop because people weren't setting their trees out clean." When a tree is set out covered in plastic snow, tinsel, ornaments, or similar materials, he said, the foreign materials could actually contaminate the rest of the materials in the compost center.

nate the rest of the materials in the compost center.

This year, people will have three opportunities to send "clean" trees to the compost center, rather than a landfill. According to Gallogly, a special truck will make the rounds of the city every Tuesday for three weeks, beginning on the Tuesday after Christmas.

People with large trees should be forewarned that they might need to cut off some of their tree if they want it picked up as compost.

"Our trucks can't take anything bigger than about 5 feet, so anything much higher than that will need to be trimmed," he said.

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# Area resident publishes book of local history

Molly Tippen  
Staff Writer

When it comes to the history of Inkster, there isn't much Georgia Ruth McKay can't remember.

For instance, she remembers when Michigan Avenue was a long stretch of rural dirt road, with only a few homes and even fewer businesses along the thoroughfare. There were no streetlights because the only electricity in the city was inside homes. Inkster Road, then also a stretch of packed dirt, was called Van Austin Boulevard.

Years later, she remembers when a streetcar in the middle of Michigan Avenue could take residents all the way to Chicago.

McKay has seen the city grow from a rural outpost to a thriving community, and examined all of the bumps along the way. It's built up all around her.

"For me to live in an uninhabitable village and see it turn into a city before my eyes was amazing," said the 80-year-old resident from her home on Kitch Street. "Not very many people can say they saw that."

What she absorbed, she said, has been a topic of never-ending discussion between herself and her friends. So, to answer ques-

tions about the beginning of her city, she wrote *I Remember Inkster*, a 58-page memoir about the community and her life experiences. McKay wrote the book in 1993 and published 500 copies last month.

"People are always asking me how things were back then," she said. "I decided it was time to put my memories on paper. People kept telling me I should before I forget."

McKay's long journey began when her parents, 17-year-old Hazell and 16-year-old Rozella, moved to Inkster from Arkansas in February, 1924. At the time, there were only six families in the community. She was the first baby.

"I can remember how things looked back then," she said. "I can still remember outdoor toilets, and my mother walking to the well to get water. She had to do that every day. Life was different then."

Hazell McKay worked briefly in the automotive field, but quickly seized the opportunity to develop the small village, which was then part of Nankin Township. "He poured the first sidewalks," she said, though she can't remember where they were. "He did a lot for the community."

McKay writes in her book

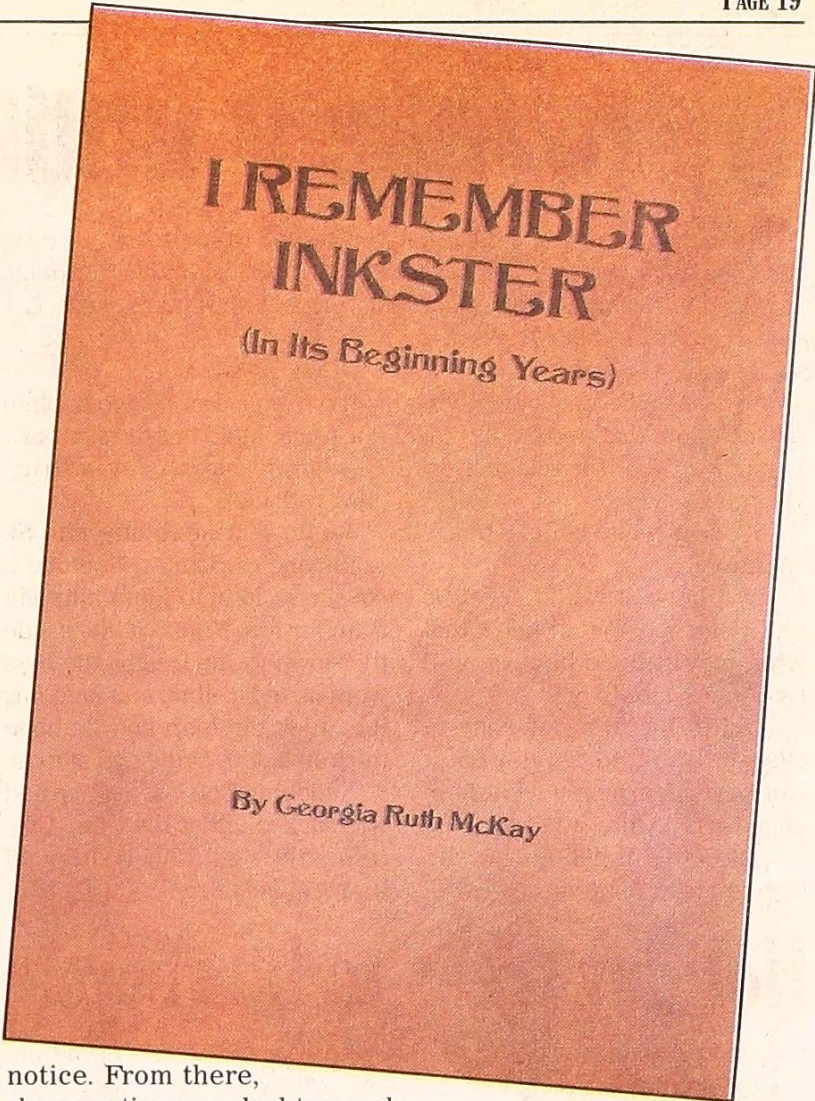
about more personal firsts, too. She still vividly remembers the wedding she went to at First Baptist on Isabelle Street, where the bride allowed her to participate by holding up the edges of her gown as she walked down the aisle. She remembers her uncle, Unsell McKay, arriving in the city in the early 1920s. Unsell McKay celebrated his 102nd birthday on Oct. 4. She writes about how she remembers Annapolis Road was paved in 1949, and how the J & B Country Bar on Michigan Avenue and Inkster Road was the first city bank.

Not all of the memories are good, though.

"I still remember that we (African Americans) had to sit in the back of that streetcar, even if no one else was in it at the time," she said. McKay also remembers that the city had a law that in the 1920s and 30s prohibiting teachers from marrying.

Though she touches on it very little in the book, McKay's own life is a lesson in survival.

Married in 1946 and divorced (happily, she adds) in 1951, McKay found herself raising four children alone at a time when single parenthood was rare. She worked at the Kaiser Products plant in Romulus until she was pink-slipped without any prior



notice. From there, she sometimes worked two and three jobs at once. She also, at one point, moved heaters into the basement, moved down there with her children, and rented the bedrooms of her home.

"It was tough," she said. "It was very hard at times, but I made it through."

She passed her willpower on to her children, who understood early on that hard work is necessary to be successful. "I have a daughter who owns four group homes and another who works in

them," she said. "Another is a corrections officer."

McKay said she is already receiving calls from other states from people who lived in the city that are interested in the book. She said she hopes people will see the city from a new perspective.

"I just hope they learn something," she said.

*I Remember Inkster* sells for \$15 and is available by calling McKay at (313) 565-8028.

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